



15 February 2018

Murrumbidgee Valley

Water allocation update

Allocations

There is a 1 per cent increase to the general security allocation in the NSW Murrumbidgee regulated river, bringing the total for 2017-18 to 34 per cent of entitlement. The improvement is attributed mostly to delivery losses being lower than expected over summer.

	High Security	General Security	Average Carryover
Murrumbidgee	95%	34%	27%

Storage levels (as at 14 February 2018)

- Blowering Dam is 38 per cent full – steady – holding 635,000 ML.
- Burrinjuck Dam is 52 per cent full – falling – holding 533,000 ML.

Climatic outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal outlook issued 25 January 2018 for February to April is due for update on 15 February. It indicates that at least median rainfall conditions are likely in the valley. Daytime temperatures are likely to be cooler than average in the region.

The weak La Niña in the Pacific Ocean continues to decline, with most models forecasting La Niña will end early in the southern hemisphere autumn. Typically, the strength of a La Niña event reflects the strength of its impact upon Australian climate. The current event is weak, and hence climate patterns have been significantly different from those observed in the last strong La Niña of 2010–12. Large parts of eastern Australia have been drier than average for the past two or three months, the opposite of what is typically expected during La Niña.

Trade

Trade **out** and **within** the Murrumbidgee Valley is open, but trade **into** the Murrumbidgee Valley is closed. Water users are encouraged to monitor the WaterNSW website at - <http://www.waternsw.com.au/customer-service/trading/murrumbidgee> - for information regarding the Murrumbidgee inter-valley trade (IVT) account balance and status of trade.

Next announcements

At this time of the water year, past the peak irrigation season and coinciding with likely lower inflows that slow the rate of allocation improvements, Water Allocation Statements will now continue on a monthly basis, with the next statement issued on **Thursday 15 March 2018**.

However, if there are any substantial weather systems or water availability changes significantly between scheduled announcements, then interim assessments and statements will be provided.

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www.water.nsw.gov.au

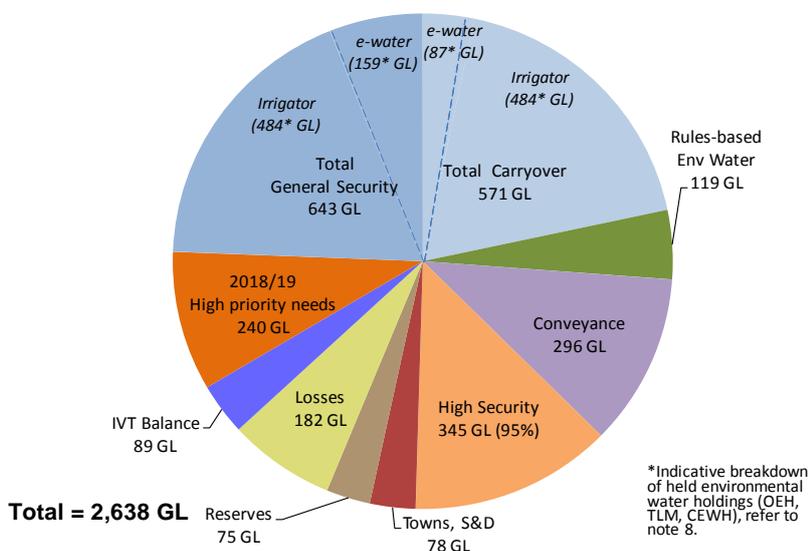
The mid-March Statement will contain the preliminary water availability outlook information for 2018-19. The water availability forecasts will continue to be reported on a monthly basis as the new water year (1 July 2018) approaches.

Murrumbidgee Resource Assessment Data Sheet

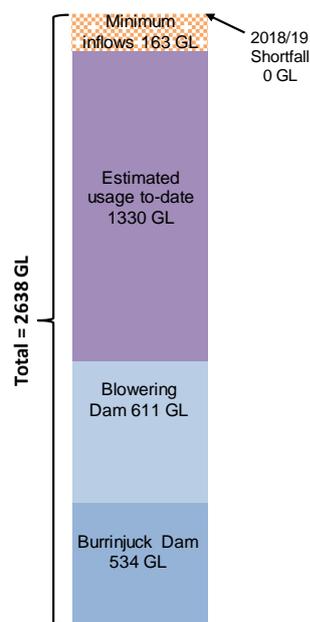
Resource Distribution (15 February) for 2017-18	
	Volume (GL)
Total Available Resource ⁽¹⁾	2,638
less	
Carryover (GS and Conveyance)	571
Rules based Environmental Water ⁽²⁾	119
Towns, Stock, Domestic	78 (100%)
Reserves ⁽³⁾	75
Conveyance ⁽⁴⁾	296
Announced High Security	345 (95%)
Losses (transmission, evaporation, operational) ⁽⁵⁾	182
Murrumbidgee IVT balance carryover at 1 July 2017	89
Late Season Discount ⁽⁶⁾	0
Announced General Security	643 (34%)
Future (2018/19) high priority needs ⁽⁷⁾	240

*See notes below.

Resource Distribution 2017-18 Murrumbidgee Valley - 15 February 2018



Supply Distribution⁽⁹⁾



Notes

- 1) Total available resource – total active storage volume (Blowering & Burrinjuck Dams) at the day of assessment plus any usable flows in transit plus drought inflows for rest of the year plus estimated usage to date including Snowy Hydro's net Jounama Release of 592GL from 1 May 2017 to 13 February 2018.
- 2) Rules-based environmental water – water required to be set aside under water sharing plans to provide for riverine environments. Includes end-of-system flow requirements (currently 43GL) and environmental water allowances (EWA1 = 50GL, EWA2 = 26GL, EWA3 = nil). Excludes 'licence-based' environmental water also known as held environmental water (HEW). This total volume typically reduces as commitments are met and water is used during the year.
- 3) Reserves – required primarily under statutory plans, and mainly used for emergency purposes and critical needs. Includes 25GL per dam as an operational reserve, and Provisional Storage Volumes (PSV1 = 25GL, PSV2 = nil).
- 4) Conveyance entitlement – a category of access licence originally issued to Irrigation Corporations to facilitate delivery of water through their channel systems. Allocation to this category is prescribed in the water sharing plans and is a function of high and general security allocations. (This category of licence in the Murrumbidgee valley, like general security, can carry over up to 30% of entitlement).
- 5) Losses – is the best estimate of the volume required to run the river under dry conditions to meet demands for the remainder of the water year. This includes storage evaporation, transmission losses and operational loss. This estimate is regularly updated as the year unfolds.
- 6) Late Season Discount – is the estimated inflow volume that will arrive into storage late in the year, after the peak irrigation demand season (usually post-February). This water cannot be allocated to water users at the start of the water year otherwise there could be an expectation that the water is available for use before it is captured in storage.
- 7) Future high priority needs – at this time of year, we look ahead to next water year (2018/19) to ensure there is sufficient resource set aside to meet high priority needs on 1 July 2018. The required volume to meet these commitments is currently 240GL. This value may change from month to month based on the projected historical inflow sequence used in the assessment and accounting for actual delivery losses incurred during the month.
- 8) Held environmental water (HEW) – as a trial, reporting of held environmental water administered by environmental water holders is being reported here, with the associated portions of general security allocation and carryover also identified in the above pie chart. This reporting of held environmental water is the total credited to accounts (not usage) and is estimated to be 159GL of GS, 12GL of HS, 41GL of conveyance allocation and 87GL of GS carryover. These entitlements are held and/or managed either singly or jointly by various environmental holder groups, including the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH), The Living Murray (TLM) and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH). Interested parties should refer to individual Agency websites for more detailed information on held environmental water holdings.
- 9) Supply Distribution – as a trial, the distribution of supply is being provided. This includes volumes at the time of the assessment for the following categories: active volumes in the dams, indicative usage to-date (may be estimates prior to reconciliation with hydrographic updates) and assumed minimum future inflows (includes Snowy Hydro's guaranteed inflows for the water year). At this time of year, it also indicates any existing shortfall in meeting next year's (2018/19) high priority needs (refer to note 7).